

K G E R R A L D

A

FRAGMENT;

CONTAINING

SOME ACCOUNT

OF THE

139

L I F E

OF THIS

DEVOTED CITIZEN,

Who was sent as

A DELEGATE

TO THE

BRITISH CONVENTION,

AT EDINBURGH,

BY THE

LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY,

For acting in which Capacity, he is now Transported to Botany
Bay for FOURTEEN YEARS!!!

LONDON:

Printed for the Author, and sold by, JOHN SMITH, Port-
mouth Street, Lincoln's Inn Fields; who is just discharged from
NEWGATE, after having been detained there for SEVEN
MONTHS, on a supposed charge of HIGH TREASON.

Entered at Stationer's Hall.

[Price SIX PENCE.]

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Just published,

1. A CONVENTION, the only Means of Saving us from Ruin, by JOSEPH GERRALD. Price 2s. 6d.
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—And speedily will be published,

The Case of SMITH, LE MAITRE, and HIGGINS, containing a particular Account of the Accusation against them, and of their Examination before the PRIVY COUNCIL.



84037

INTRODUCTION.

THE following Fragment is offered to the public under a conviction that the fate of the character of which it treats, must, and does deeply interest not only every man of feeling and humanity, but more particularly every true friend to *parliamentary reform* and the *liberties of man ind*, especially the members of the LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY, whose delegate he was to the British Convention, that sat at Edinburgh, in the close of the year 1793; for which service, he is now an exile from his native land, suffering all the hardships of a rigorous and cruel sentence of fourteen years banishment to a place inhabited by thieves of every description, called Botany Bay.

It was originally written while he was confined in Newgate, intended to have made part of a sketch of the lives of the suffering patriots, and to have been much more comprehensive, but the unexpected and sudden departure of this truly valuable and much lamented citizen, has induced the proprietor at the pressing request of some friends to bring it before the public in its present shape, who are intreated to receive it with that indulgence which its defects render necessary—by considering how very inadequate words are to express the real merits and sufferings of this devoted patriot, and virtuous man, who may certainly be ranked, without exaggeration, as one of the most valuable gems ever produced by this oppressed and persecuted Isle; which has received an indelible stain by the savage

vage barbarity and unmerited cruelty practised against one who was foremost amongst its best and most steady friends. Indeed it was impossible to find a man who was a more zealous and able advocate for the freedom of his countrymen than JOSEPH GERRALD; and not only his fellow citizens, but the whole earth partook of his benevolent wishes. To have given freedom to the world was the first and almost the only wish of his elevated soul; no man possessed more steady and unshaken virtue; no man had a more feeling heart; no man enjoyed more firmness; to incorruptible integrity, he joined the most undaunted courage; the wealth of Mexico, the riches of Peru, joined to the gold of Japan, could not have purchased him: nor the threats of despotism, however severe and dreadful, make him swerve from that line of rectitude which truth pointed out to him as his duty. Fortitude and benevolence were in him so happily blended, that even his persecutors, reeking in the savage work, were obliged to pay homage to his exalted character, to admire that soul which their most horrid thunders had no power to shake; to pay a tribute of applause to that meekness which their tarnished and bemired hearts were not capable of imitating. As a man of learning, few (if any) excelled him, and none ever employed their talents more truly to the public weal. Pride was a stranger to his breast; poverty ever found in him a fostering and protecting hand; ready to share his scanty pittance with the distressed, his greatest pleasure consisted in making others happy, by participating with indigence that, of which he knew no other use, than to relieve the wants of his fellow-creatures. In short, he was a man, that "take him for all in all, we scarce
 "shall

“ shall look upon his like again.” He has left TWO INFANT CHILDREN, a girl and a boy, to bemoan his unhappy fate, and experience the want of his paternal care, and many, very many friends, who will never cease to conserve his memory with the most tender remembrance; and who may always consider it as their proudest boast, that they enjoyed the friendship of that great and good man CITIZEN JOSEPH GERRALD.

JOSEPH GERRALD.

“ Firm in himself who on himself relies,
 “ Polish’d and round who runs his proper course,
 “ And breaks misfortunes with superior force.”

THIS extraordinary man, now suffering under an heavy and uncommonly severe sentence of the Justiciary Court of Scotland, seems to have been formed in one of dame nature’s happiest moments, and presents to view an highly polished literary character, to which he adds the most expansive benevolence, unshaken fortitude, and inflexible virtue, constant in his pursuits after truth, and ever open to the voice of reason. Blest with an uncommon understanding, which he had the good fortune to have nurtured and perfected by that excellent man Doctor Parr, in his early life he quitted his native country, to bask in the sunshine of the mountain goddess LIBERTY, on the enfranchised and happy shores of Columbia, where he was admitted to the bar, and practised with considerable eclat in the courts

courts of Pennsylvania. His visiting that country may perhaps be easily accounted for, when it is understood that his paternal estates were situated in the West Indian Islands. Here our citizen, fired with the most ardent love of freedom, could not help contemplating with an eye of sorrow and compassion, the degrading difference between the happy American freeman, and the enslaved Briton; whose government had lost its very essence by the numerous and manifold abuses that had crept into what certainly once had the faint semblance of a free constitution; and sincerely wishing to see his countrymen as happy as their former brethren, he returned to Europe with a view of lending his assistance to cleanse the Augean stable, and restore Britons to that freedom of which they had so long and vainly boasted; in consequence he became a member of the CONSTITUTIONAL SOCIETY, and afterwards of the LONDON CORRESPONDING SOCIETY, from which last, in the month of October, 1793 he was chosen in conjunction with MAURICE MARGAROT, delegate to the British Convention then sitting at Edinburgh.

Bred up amidst all the luxuries of fashionable life, with the possession of an ample fortune, he has kept clear of those vices that disgrace the aristocracy of the country, and justly bring it into disrepute with the thinking and moral part of mankind; for the only advantage that seems to have arisen from this idle distinction amongst the citizens, is the having given those who possess titles a licence to commit with impunity those crimes and enormities that frequently bring their less privileged and untitled fellow-citizens, either to make a shocking exhibition before the debtor's door in the Old Bailey, or
 else

else to take a voyage at the expence of the nation to Botany Bay ; the only traits that our citizen retains of his former connections, is an extreme urbanity of manners, a fascinating address, and a graceful carriage. He has felt all the severity of the most acute distress ; having been deprived of a large property, by the unfeeling heart, and avaricious hands of a West Indian merchant, who taking advantage of that poverty, which he himself had caused, threw the claims of our citizen, into that gulph of——called the Court of Chancery, from whence they can only be withdrawn by the expenditure of a sum far beyond his ability to command.

The sentence passed against this ill fated and virtuous citizen, will present an everlasting monument of the weakness of Scottish law ; and it must certainly both astonish, and call down the execration of posterity, when they learn, that what the prime minister of Great Britain had in conjunction with some of the leading members of the British cabinet, publicly avowed and promulgated as indispensably necessary and requisite to the salvation of the liberties and rights of Englishmen in the year 1782, was termed **RANK SEDITION** in the northern part of the kingdom in 1794, under the administration of those very men who had been peculiarly alert in propagating the doctrine, and had themselves acted in the same capacity of delegate as our citizen did, and the subject of these memoirs, together with **MARGAROT** and **SKIRVING**, who were also members of the British convention, condemned to be transported for **FOURTEEN** years, to the inhospitable shores of New Holland, in company with *highwaymen*,
pick.

pickpockets and thieves of every description!!! and if it should be again asked for what? why for broaching in Edinburgh, the doctrine of UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE and ANNUAL PARLIAMENTS, which was introduced into the British house of Parliament by the Duke of Richmond, who was a minister at the same time of the sentence being, passed in a bill, an extract from which we shall here present our readers.

“ Now for remedy of such partial and unequal representation, of the many mischiefs which have arisen therefrom; and for restoring, asserting, and maintaining, the rights of the commons of this realm, be it declared and enacted—*that every commoner of this realm* (excepting only infants, persons of insane mind, and criminals incapacitated by law) *hath a natural, unalienable, and equal right to vote in the election of his representative in Parliament.*

“ And whereas triennial and septennial parliaments by rendering the exercise of the right of election less frequent, tend to make the representation *LESS dependant* on their constituents than they always OUGHT to be; and also deprive the commons for many years after they come of age, of this franchise of electing *their own* representative. Be it declared and enacted by the authority aforesaid, *that the election of members to serve in the House of Commons OUGHT to be ANNUAL.*”

For this and this only, hath this truly valuable and honest citizen been doomed to an ignominious exile; what do I say? no! it is glorious to him, it is only disgraceful to his country; for this is he torn a bleeding victim from every tender connection, for this is he robbed of his children,

children, for this is he made the companion of wretched highwaymen and abandoned pickpockets!!! Oh! England how art thou fallen, where are now those upright legislators, that caused the immortal SYDNEY's sentence to be reversed? Alas! they sleep with their fathers; and their successors seem to have banished their glorious and honourable conduct from their remembrance, and to have lost sight of every generous and manly impulse that actuated their honest minds: for, shameful to repeat, it is a matter of notoriety, that Mr. Fox was obliged to call to order a member of the *lower* House of parliament, who, in open defiance of decency, had previous to our citizen's being tried prejudicated this MARTYR TO LIBERTY.

We must here do justice to that noble and heroic firmness displayed by this worthy successor of HAMPDEN, in going down to Scotland to take his trial, if such it can be called, when a man already knows his doom ere the parchment that contains the articles of his accusation is unfolded in a court—I was going to say of justice—but truth, imperial truth caused a sudden stoppage of my pen, and instead of the word, an huge splash of ink filled up the vacuum thus [REDACTED] the candid reader, therefore, is requested to supply the deficiency with that term which he thinks will most appropriately express the *humane* and *benevolent* conduct of that *honourable* court on this occasion; unlike his predecessors, who expected until the last moment to avert the blow, he went to receive a certain sentence, the pronouncing of which on his colleagues had already filled all Scotland and England with terror and dismay, and had caused many to fly their impending fate; like CURT US

to save his country, he plunged into the fiery gulph; his virtuous mind, like another SOCRATES, would not fly the laws of his unhappy country, although the prison doors were opened to him, for a patriotic friend JOHN HORNE TOOKE, offered to pay the sum for which he was held to bail, rather than he should thus become an additional proof of his country's disgrace and the ——— what you please, of its ministers—No ! true to the sacred, glorious and immortal cause in which he was engaged, he scorned to commit an act which the enemies of freedom might have construed into fear, and went heroically and virtuously at once to plead the cause of liberty and his country, and to certain and inevitable destruction——. Let us for a moment pause and silently contemplate the very different fates of the advocates of ANNUAL PARLIAMENTS and UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE ; WILLIAM PITT is now chancellor of the exchequer, first lord of the treasury, and warden of the Cinque Ports, with emoluments of little less than THIRTY THOUSAND pounds per annum ; and the DUKE OF RICHMOND was master of the ordnance ; JOSEPH GERRALD pined in Newgate and the New Compter for upwards of FIFTEEN months, and is at last sent in conjunction with thieves to Botany Bay, for fourteen years, without a GUINEA to help his wants, without cloathing sufficient to keep out the rude and inclement weather, loaded with irons on his hands and on his feet ; this mutability of fortune can never be more happily expressed than in those two excellent lines of that venerable and good man GILBERT WAKEFIELD :

“ Ah ! how unlike reformers are your fate,
 “ This to New Holland goes to the Exchequer that.”
 Our

Our banished citizen is the author of a pamphlet entitled, *A CONVENTION THE ONLY MEANS OF SAVING US FROM RUIN*, a work that will hand his name down to posterity with eclat, and render his name dear to Englishmen, whatever may be his future destiny; it sells for half-a-crown; and when it is understood that the profits on it, and his Defence, are perhaps the only means that are left for the support and education of two beautiful children, which by the inhumanity of his country, he is obliged to leave friendless and unprovided, strangers in their native land,—we cannot doubt but every well-wisher to the author, the cause, and two lovely orphans—will be eager to avail themselves of this opportunity, of shewing their gratitude to the victim of their claims, and of acquiring that knowledge which they will find eminently useful in their future pursuits.

His defence before the High Justiciary Court, which is printed for the benefit of his family, and sold by the booksellers at EIGHTEEN-PENCE, does honour both to his head and heart, and will ever remain an unanswerable argument in favour of the liberties of the people; it cannot be too generally read, as it contains the soundest principles of political justice, supported by the authority of the best writers on civil jurisprudence in the English tongue—it is calculated to shew the most zealous defenders of despotism their error, and to confirm the young and unexperienced votary of freedom in the justness of his enterprize—we trust that this book may by the patronage of a feeling and grateful nation, in some measure become a substitute for the loss his family must experience, by the cruel and inhuman banishment of the father—to shew that

that we are not singular in our ideas of this masterly piece of eloquence, we here make an extract from the MONTHLY REVIEW for September 1794.

“ Not having now before us the printed copy
 “ of Mr. Gerrald’s trial, which passed our Review in June last (see number for that month, page 231) we cannot compare the present
 “ copy of that gentlemen’s celebrated speech with that which Mr. Ramsay had before communicated to the public ; but as this edition
 “ has received the advantage of Mr. G’s revival, we must consider it as authentic and
 “ complete.

“ It is a performance that certainly does credit to his abilities. In point of composition,
 “ it is indeed a masterly performance : the perusal of which notwithstanding its great length
 “ will sufficiently compensate the *unbiassed* reader for the time bestowed on it. As to the *cause*
 “ which Mr. G. so ardently maintained, *that* is a matter which does not properly come before us. It is not for a Literary Review
 “ to sit in judgment, on the judges of the
 “ land.”

The ANALYTICAL REVIEW, the BRITISH CRITIC, the CRITICAL REVIEW &c. &c. Speak equally well of this performance, which will certainly be revered by future ages, as a choice display of rare talents united to unblemished virtue, and unshaken fortitude in the cause of FREEDOM.

In vain shall the vile panders, of a dissolute minister, preach up to the people, the mildness and equality of British laws ; whilst such damning proofs of its severity, and inequality exist, as we have here had occasion to picture—terror
 and

and a standing army may indeed for a time stifle the just resentments of an injured and oppressed nation ; Corruption may employ the most filthy means to shackle the mind by introducing the detestable system of spies and informers, and by laying heavy imposts in the circulation of knowledge—but, like the latent fire amidst the embers, it will at last burst forth in flame of indignation that can only be quenched by the fall of those minions, who in defiance of every principle, divine and human, hold their situations by the annihilation of their country's liberties ; who with impious hands seize on the birth right of Britons, and reduce them from that enviable situation, they once held amongst European nations, to the lowest ebb of wretched degradation, baseness, and slavery ; who hang the temple of liberty with black, and force the people to bewail the loss of their enchanting goddess, by illuminations that announce victories over her friends and supporters, and the occupation of her altars by cowardly oppression and knavish despotism.

And thou, Oh ! vile apostate, who in thy early career of politics, raised thyself on the shoulders of the people, to thy present situation, by the commission of that very crime, for which our beloved citizen is banished, only indeed thine was committed in England, where yet they have not a Lord Justice Clerk, think that the vengeance of heaven like a thief in the night, will yet fall heavy on thy devoted and infamous head when thou least expecteth it.—Remember the fate of thy great prototype Sejanus, and make some atonement for all the iniquities thou hast committed against thy too credulous and abused country, before it be yet too late, by unloosing
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the bonds of slavery that envelope this ill fated citizen, whose talents and virtues soar as far above thine, as the heavens are above the mountains of the earth; by restoring him to that liberty of which thou hast vilely caused him to be robbed; by restoring him to that country which will unceasingly lament his loss; by restoring him to those friends to whom his benevolence and amiable disposition has rendered him dear; and although the softer ties of nature never yet entrapped thine adamant heart, although love never yet softened thy callous soul, yet let justice for once enter thy breast, when thou shalt contemplate the beautiful offspring of this victim to thy apostacy, duplicity and injustice, that must be left to wither like the morning flower, if the infamous sentence, the corruption of thy measures has obtained against him be carried into execution—do this the and world may yet have compassion for thine infirmities, like the sinner that repenteth, thou mayst be received back into the bosom of society, and become lovely in the sight of God and WOMAN!

We cannot better conclude this article, than by making an extract from his defence, which will shew the firmness of his mind under the most trying and afflicting misfortunes, and be a striking example, how little possible it is for tyranny itself in its most unbounded licentiousness to really punish a mind impregnated with virtue, and the sacred love of freedom. No! such men are far above the reach of the vile arts and terrible *menaces* of oppression, they can smile when tyrants grin ghastly at their own infernal tortures, and their coward hearts shrink back appalled at the dreadful sentence their venomous souls are about to pronounce.

“ Gentlemen, I am in your hands. About my
 “ life I feel not the slightest anxiety; if it
 “ would promote the cause, I would cheerfully
 “ make the sacrifice; for if I perish on an occa-
 “ sion like the present, out of my ashes will arise
 “ a flame to consume the tyrants and oppressors
 “ of my country.

“ Moral light is as irresistible by the mind,
 “ as physical by the eye. All attempts to impede
 “ its progress are vain. It will roll rapidly
 “ along; and as well may tyrants imagine, that
 “ by placing their feet upon the earth, they
 “ can stop its diurnal motion, as that they shall
 “ be able by efforts the most virulent and per-
 “ tinacious, to extinguish the light of reason
 “ and philosophy, which happily for mankind,
 “ is every where spreading around us.

“ Surely the experience of all ages, should
 “ have taught our rulers that persecutions never
 “ can efface principles; and that the thunder
 “ of the state will prove impotent, when wield-
 “ ed against patriotism, innocence, and firmness.
 “ Whether, therefore, I shall be permitted to
 “ glide gently down the current of life, in the
 “ bosom of my native country, among those
 “ kindred spirits whose approbation constitutes
 “ the great comfort of my being, or whether I
 “ be doomed to drag out the remainder of my
 “ existence amidst thieves and murderers, a
 “ wandering exile on the bleak and melancholy
 “ shores of New Holland, my MIND, equal to
 “ either fortune, is prepared to meet the destiny
 “ that awaits me.

“ To be torn a bleeding member from that
 “ country which we love, is, indeed, upon the
 “ first view, painful in the extreme; but all
 “ things cease to be painful, when we are sup-
 “ ported

" ported by the consciousness that we have
 " done our duty to our fellow-creatures ; and
 " a wise man rising superior to all local preju-
 " dices, if asked for his country, will turn his
 " eyes from ' this dim spot which men call
 " earth, and will point, like Anaxagoras, to
 " the heavens.'

He is a native of Warwickshire ; about thirty-two years of age ; about five feet, eight inches in height ; of a slender make, and puny constitution. He was brought to Newgate after receiving the sentence of the Justiciary Court of Scotland, in March 1794, and continued in that prison until the month of October, when the persons lately tried and acquitted for high treason, were removed there from the Tower to take their trials. He was then shifted to the New Compter, Giltspur Street, where he remained until SATURDAY, the 2d of May, 1795, on which day, about three o'clock in the afternoon, just as he had lain down to repose himself, being much indisposed, he was informed that Pitt the turnkey of Newgate wanted to speak with him, upon which he arose and went into the lobby of the prison, when they immediately seized him, and put him in irons, hand-cuffing him and shackling his legs : In this situation he was not even permitted to return to his apartments, to take leave of his infant daughter, who was the companion of his imprisonment, but instantly hurried into a postchaise with Pitt the turnkey, and conveyed to Gosport, where he was put on board the SOVEREIGN transport for Botany Bay.

The following anecdote, the truth of which is pretty generally accredited, will show in what estimation he was held as a scholar :

DOCTOR PARR, who educated him and Mr.

SHE-

SHERIDAN, being one day in company with the latter, the discourse turned upon GERRALD, when Mr. SHERIDAN remarking that "he was a very clever young man." the doctor replied, "aye, Sir, by far the most clever fellow that ever I educated."

Over the fate of this unfortunate man, humanity must heave a sigh, and deplore the depravity of that country, which could find no other reward for such admirable talents and unspotted virtue, than chains, exile, and ingratitude. It ought, however, to arouse from their slumbers that society whose delegate he was, and convince them, more than ever, of the necessity of persevering and uniting in the promotion of their great cause, that of rescuing their country from the tyranny of its oppressors, by ANNUAL PARLIAMENTS and UNIVERSAL SUFFRAGE, in the prosecution of which, let them never lose sight of their motto,

UNITE, PERSEVERE, AND BE FREE.

The following lines were presented to citizen Gerrald, during his confinement in Newgate—and it is presumed may not be uninteresting to our readers :

TO

CITIZEN GERRALD.

PERMIT, dear citizen, a patriot bard,
With all the fervour of sincere regard,
To mourn thy suff'rings in fair freedom's cause,
And pay thy zeal the tribute of applause ;
Through Scotia's envious mists to see thee rise,
And like the sun illumine other skies ;
O'er clouds of prejudice to mark thy way,
And hail thee soaring in meridian day.

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What though by short liv'd tyrant power attack'd
 Though *lawless judges* and a *jury pack'd*,
 In hateful league, with hellish rage combin'd
 To check the noble ardor of thy mind,
 Yet vain their fury, vain their venal arts,
 Thy eloquence appall'd their coward hearts,
 Pour'd on the bench ineffable disgrace,
 And flash'd conviction in each scoundrel's face.

What though the slaves of wicked pow'r combine,
 The cause of LIBERTY to undermine;
 Her battlements the wrecks of time shall stand,
 And mock the fury of each hostile band;
 Through all the universe her fame shall sound,
 Her EQUAL LAWS in every clime be found;
 Her pow'r is mercy and her cause divine,
 And all the world shall worship at her shrine.
 Far in the west I saw the goddess rise,
 Earth was her pedestal, her cap the skies,
 COLUMBIA's patriots felt the gen'rous flame,
 And in her cause acquir'd immortal fame;
 Pregnant with blessings, anxious still to save,
 She press'd the bosom of th' Atlantic wave;
 TRUTH form'd her shield, and vengeance drove her car,
 To wage with despots an eternal war;
 I saw her gen'rous advocates advance,
 And fix her standard on the shores of France;
 Priestcraft and monkish charms before her fell,
 And superstition fought her native hell;
 Aghast the monster despotism stood,
 And trembling, like BELSHAZZAR, sunk in blood!
 The slavish chains of vassalage were broke,
 And freedom triumph'd o'er the galling yoke;
 No dire Bastile remain'd, where tyrant rage
 Confin'd the wretched to the iron cage,
 Doom'd NATURE'S GREAT, to lonely grief a prey
 In dark, damp cells to linger life away;
 But virtue train'd to arms her valiant band,
 And vice—with *priests* and *nobles*, fled the land.
 Bursting with gall, let envy dart her stings,
 At wicked ministers, and idiot kings,
 Bid all their cut-throat myrmidons advance
 To conquer FREEDOM and partition FRANCE;
 Their silly schemes, like ideal phantoms fly,
 Before the beam of REASON's sober eye;
 In vain their rage, for like a sea-beat rock,
 Gallia repels unhurt each hostile shock;

In vain the slavish hordes for vict'ry fight,
 Carnage and rout their doom, and shameful flight.
 This to his cost the threat'ning BRUNSWICK found,
 When his vile herd polluted freedom's ground ;
 This COBOURG knows, as fast the hero runs,
 Far from the reach of Gallia's thund'ring guns,
 This *Britain's Champion* learns with sad surprise,
 Whilst from the French his *Highbness* boldly flies,
 Whilst o'er the Netherlands he nimbly skips,
 And barters *swords* and *guns* for *spurs* and *whips* ;
 Thus, ever thus may slavish vice retire
 From bolder virtue's well directed fire ;
 'T hus, ever thus may freedom gain the day,
 And on her proud invaders pour dismay !

IMMORTAL LIBERTY !—inspir'd by thee,
 All nations soon shall *will it*, and be free ;
 Th' injur'd AFRICAN shall break his chain,
 Exchange his life of misery, and pain,
 His master's cruelty, the driver's blows,
 For all the charms thy god-like hand bestows ;
 In all the majesty of man shall rise,
 And arm'd with vengeance fury in his eyes,
 Seize the fell tyrant, though of prouder birth,
 And hurl the curs'd oppressor from the earth.
 Soon injur'd INNOCENCE shall lift its head,
 And view each wicked persecutor dead ;
 The vile destroyers of the world shall fall,
 And one wide-spreading ruin seize them all :
 Wars bloody chiefs shall whet the sword no more,
 Nor bid again destructive cannon's roar,
 The rage and fury of mankind shall cease,
 And all the world be gently hush'd to peace ;
 PHILOSOPHY shall harmonize the mind,
 And love and amity cement mankind ;
 Illustrious REASON shall ascend her throne,
 And ev'ry human breast her empire own ;
 Priestcraft, with all its monkish charms and spells,
 And ev'ry haunt where superstition dwells,
 Shall like a vision fly, and leave the mind,
 Free as unshackled thought and unconfin'd.

O happy day ! when ALBION shall arise
 From the long slumber that has seal'd her eyes,
 And like the wiser bee, vindictive drive
 Each *drone* and *useless placeman* from her hive ;
 Start into life and liberty, and purge
 Her injur'd country of its ev'ry scourge ;

For justice pant—with gen'rous ardor burn
 To hail her banish'd patriot's safe return ;
 Then shall the suff'ring friends of man receive,
 All that a boundless gratitude can give ;
 Then patriot bards shall consecrate to fame
 PALMER's, and MUIR's, and SKIRVING's honor'd name ;
 Then MARGAROT, with merited applause,
 Shall urge successful freedom's glorious cause.
 Ah ! then my GERRALD shall deserv'd renown
 Thy noble efforts, and thy suff'rings crown ;
 Then to thy merit shall thy country raise,
 A more than marble monument of praise ;
 Ah ! then by patriotic rapture fir'd,
 Unaw'd by tyrants—by bold truth inspir'd,
 The grateful muse again shall tune her lay,
 And THOU receive—what now she dare not pay.

Since the foregoing character of Gerrald was written, and whilst it was at the press, the following has appeared in the Morning Chronicle, and is here inserted to show the worth of and the general estimation in which this illustrious sufferer in the cause of Freedom is held—the author is I believe in an error respecting the place of his birth and his age.

To the Editor of the Morning Chronicle,

MR. EDITOR,

The British public, and the world, are indebted to you for the manly way in which you have noticed the catastrophe that closes, for the present, the persecutions of administration against Joseph Gerrald. Such events, though melancholy, are full of instruction ; and it would be matter of regret, if, while the individual suffers, and the public is injured, we did not at least endeavour to secure the compensation in wisdom and improvement with which the circumstance

is

is fraught. I will describe the character of this man, as if he were actually defunct, and pay him the tribute of justice and impartiality, to which merit is always supposed to be entitled upon such occasions.

Joseph Gerrald was born in the West Indies, where he inherited a considerable estate; and his relations were among the most wealthy planters of the islands in which they resided. He received a portion of his education in England, at Stanmore in Middlesex, under the care of Samuel Parr, a name which of itself suggests to every informed reader a higher eulogium than I am able to offer. This great and venerable instructor of youth was always remarkable for the encouragement he gave, and the friendship he entertained, to those pupils whose eminent talents enabled them most fully to profit by his communications. Several of the first men in this country deem it their particular honour to cultivate that intercourse with Dr. Parr now, which began under his roof in the connection of master and scholar. But there was none that he more esteemed, and by whom his affection was more ardently returned, than Joseph Gerrald. The scene of his education also introduced Mr. Gerrald to the acquaintance of many illustrious persons, who were his school-fellows. To know Gerrald, if he who knew him were a man of sensibility and discrimination, was always the same thing as to admire and love him.

Mr. Gerrald, when he came to the possession of his estate; entered into habits of dissipation, and his estate melted away under the activity of his extravagance. A part of this period of his life was spent in North America, about the close of the contest between Great Britain and her colonies.

colonies. In that scene his attention was necessarily called to political truth, and the rights of mankind. Other men have been extravagant; but it was peculiar to Mr. Gerrald, if he were extravagant, to be scarcely in any degree prevented by that circumstance from the accumulation of knowledge, and intellectual improvement. His mind grasped various branches of science, and digested them all. The best scholars, the profoundest metaphysicians, and the ablest professors of politics, and the law of nations, will be the first to confess the soundness of his classical knowledge, the acuteness and extent of his reasonings, and the accuracy of his information. His eloquence had equally the power to charm and astonish; and the brilliancy of his imagination was not inferior to the terrors of his invective. With all this, his temper is not less entitled to our praise. He was placable and generous to an extreme. The magnanimity of his spirit, and the purity of his sense of honour, could only be completely understood by those who had made them the subject of personal observation. His defence delivered before the Court of Justiciary at Edinburgh, is a masterpiece in acuteness of reasoning, purity of composition, and dignity of sentiment. I am aware, Sir, that the various excellence I ascribe to him would seem like a romance, if Mr. Gerrald had been a man unknown to the world. But you, and almost every eminent scholar and statesman in Britain, knew his merits, and know that I say less than the truth, because I do not know how to tell the truth in its full extent.

Having finished his education and his travels, he came to England, the country which seemed best adapted to the display of his talents. Alas,
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those talents are crushed, perhaps for ever, by the flagitious act of men who were incapable of understanding them, or understood only to hate them!

Perhaps I shall be asked, "Why express so much astonishment and disapprobation of a man's being sent to the shores of New Holland? This is an ordinary event."—No, Sir, this is not an ordinary event. We see men bred among the refuse of society, transported by hundreds; and the philanthropist will see it with regret. But it is yet extraordinary for a man like Gerrald, to be subjected to this nefarious treatment: a man, from whose various information the wisest might be contented to learn, and whose bursts of eloquence and penetration might charm the most refined. At a moment when the most consummate might have repaired with profit to learn wisdom from his lips, he is thrust to the farthest distance from civilised society. I should like to see the man who would say of himself, or whose friends would say for him, "My talents are greater than those of Gerrald."

The barbarous stupidity and ignorance of our Ministers may lead them to regard this as an ordinary event. But it will be remembered against them, and will stamp their characters to posterity. It is a new crime that they never committed before; it is a touchstone to show how far their profligacy and unblushing hardness of heart can extend.

They have taken care that their proceeding should want no aggravation. They retained Mr. Gerrald in England till after the memorable trial of the Acquitted Felons. They were willing that no man should be ignorant that if he had been tried in England, and by an English Jury,
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he would have been acquitted with honour; and they then take advantage of the barbarous state of Scottish jurisprudence, to deprive the human species, probably for ever, of the benefit of this man's talents.

A farther aggravation remains to be mentioned. The jailors, and other respectable attendants of the New Compter and Newgate, whispered sometime since, that an order had been issued for the removal of Mr. Gerrald to Botany Bay. A person of consequence in opposition, who was the friend of Mr. Gerrald, spoke to Mr. Dundas on the subject, I believe on the sixth of April, willing that he should not be kept in a painful uncertainty. Mr. Dundas's answer was: "There is no intention of sending Mr. Gerrald at present; and, if it depend upon me, he will not be sent." Such unnecessary duplicity and cruelty are almost incredible.

Mr. Gerrald, the unfortunate and illustrious subject of this article, is in the thirty-fifth year of his age.



FINIS.